



***Symphyotrichum
oblongifolium***

'October Skies'

Aromatic Aster

A low mounding perennial. A multitude of starry sky blue daisies appear in early fall for about two months. Plants are tough and adaptable prospering in sun and drought.

Full sun

Height: 15 Inches

Spread: 30 inches

Bloom Time: August, September, October

Bloom Color: Blue

This cultivar has a bluer flower color, shorter height and denser growth than the species. It is densely branched and spreading, forming low mounding colonies from underground rhizomes. Flower heads consist of many blue-purple ray flowers surrounding a cluster of golden disc flowers. The prolific flowers are large, showy and attractive to bees, skippers, and butterflies. The plant is host to caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly. Foliage is somewhat unpalatable to deer and rabbits.

This aster is a sustainable substitute for fall chrysanthemums. 'October Skies' grows best in full sun but will tolerate partly shaded areas that have at least a half day of sun. It thrives on average to dry conditions and will adapt to drought, clay, alkaline and poor rocky soils.

Trivia: Many of the established Latin names of *Aster* spp were changed recently due to DNA and genetic research findings. So *Aster oblongifolius* 'October Skies' is now known as *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies'.